

Ben Cook

From: Voshel, Elizabeth <voshele@umich.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:56 AM
To: Ben Cook
Subject: HB5040 Conscientious Objector Legislation

PLEASE FORWARD TO THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE!

Dear Rep. Haveman,

As a member of the National Association of Social Workers, I am writing to express my concerns with HB 5040, the Conscientious Objector legislation.

I have been a practicing social worker for over 30 years and find this piece of legislation an insult to my profession. It is clear that you have a personal agenda and that you have decided that your individual beliefs and morals should rule others. I am ashamed and embarrassed that you have the privilege of serving in our legislature.

There are over 4600 students currently enrolled in social work programs across the state that may be affected in multiple ways if this legislation were to pass.

This legislation puts students in direct violation of the Code of Ethics, which all social workers must abide by throughout their educational and professional careers. One of the six ethical principles of the profession, Dignity and Worth of the Person, states that "Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity."

Additionally, the Code of Ethics states that "Social workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical disability."

I have gone on record urging others to vote against this legislation and allow all professionals to continue to do their jobs without legislative interference. I also urge you to become familiar with the principles of the helping profession and to read in particular, the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Harbeck Voshel, ACSW, LMSW
Associate Clinical Professor/Director of Field Instruction
School of Social Work
University of Michigan

203 Quiet Creek Court
Chelsea, MI 48118
734-475-7871

Betsy

ELIZABETH HARBECK VOSHEL, LMSW, ACSW
Associate Clinical Professor/Director of Field Instruction

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Office of Field Instruction

School of Social Work

1080 S. University Ave., Rm. 2712

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

Office: 734-647-2543

FAX: 734-763-4885

www.ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/ofi/

voshele@umich.edu